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"England, by her Cabinet orders of the 11th of Nov. 1807, laid a tax upon neutral vessels, and compelled them to enter her harbours, before they can proceed to their place of destination. By the decree of the 17th of December, of the same year, the Emperor declared all such vessels denationalized, whose flag is violated, insulted, and trampled upon.

"To protect herself against the spoliations, wherewith such a state of things menaced her commerce, America laid on an embargo in her harbours, and though France, which had only exercised the right of retaliation, was aware that her own interests and those of her Colonies must suffer much from such a measure, yet the Emperor applauded the magnanimous resolution of renouncing all commerce, rather than acknowledge the sovereignty and tyranny of the seas.

"The embargo has been taken off, and a system of exclusion has been substituted for it. The powers of the Continent, in alliance against England, make common cause; they have the same object in this war; they must reap the same advantages; they must also run the same risks. The ports of Holland, the Elbe, the Weser, Italy and Spain, will enjoy no advantage of which France would be deprived. They will, all of them, be open or shut at the same time, with regard to any commercial intercourse with them.

"Thus, Sir, in point of principle, France recognizes the freedom of neutral commerce, and the independence of the Maritime Powers, which she respected up to the moment when the maritime tyranny of England, that respects nothing, and the arbitrary proceedings of its Government, compelled her to adopt measures of retaliation, to which she resorted with regret. Let England revoke her blockade of France, and France will recall her declaration of blockade against England. Let England revoke her Cabinet Orders of the 11th November, 1807, and the Milan Decree will expire of itself. The American commerce will then recover its complete freedom, and be assured of finding in the harbours of France favour and protection. But it belongs to the United States to attain this happy object, by their firmness. Can a nation, resolved to remain free, hesitate between certain momentary independence, her honour, her sovereignty, and her dignity?"

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

BRITISH.

Paris papers state, that the royal institution of Amsterdam chose Mr. Roscoe a corresponding member, in the place of Muller, the Swiss, lately deceased. Such acts as these abate the rancour of national hostility, and alone, perhaps, prove, that modern warlike nations are not absolutely barbarous. It would give us unspeakable pleasure to record similar acts of magnanimity on the part of our country. Are Britons only insensible to all excellence that is not British?

In a former number we gave an account of the ill usage sustained by Ann Izard, who was foolishly supposed to be a witch. We now subjoin the sentence pronounced against the absurd and cruel votaries of superstition:

THE KING, v. AMEY AND OTHERS.

Mr. Serjeant Sellon moved for judgment on five men and five women, who had been convicted at the assizes for Huntingdon, in May 1808, on two different indictments for riotously assembling, breaking into the dwelling house of Wright Izard, assaulting Ann, his wife, scratching her with pins to the effusion of her blood, on the 8th and 9th of May, in two different bodies, there being six of the defendants on the former night, and four on the latter.

It appeared that two of the women rioters having taken up the impression, that they laboured under some bodily weakness, which was occasioned by the prosecutrix, and that they could only be liberated from this dominion by letting out some of the prosecutrix's blood, had so far inspired many of their deluded neighbours with their absurd prejudice, as to occasion the riotous assembling in question.

Mr. Justice Grose, in an appropriate charge, pointed out the impossibility of the charge against this poor woman, who had been the object of their ignorance and barbarity. The wisdom of our forefathers had so clearly ascertained that the idea of witchcraft, was entirely fabulous, that all punishment for the exercise of witchcraft, sorcery, enchantment, and conjuration were exploded from our statute book, and in lieu thereof the pretenders to skill in any of these supposed arts, were to be visited with exemplary punishment, it

being ascertained beyond a doubt that such pretences could only be used by knaves, and believed by fools. The difficulty with the learned judge was to suppose, that any persons, at this time of day, could persuade themselves into the belief of such an absurdity. It seems rather as if the defendants had conceived an ill will against this poor woman, and had made this ridiculous belief a pretence for indulging it.

The sentence of the court was, that each of the nine defendants, who had only made one attack on the poor woman, should be imprisoned one month in the castle of Lancaster; that the others, who had been concerned in both attacks, should be imprisoned one month for each, and that each of them should hereafter find bail to keep the peace for two years, themselves in l.40 and two sureties in l.20 each.

The following short account of the riots at Covent Garden theatre, extracted from a letter to a gentleman in this town, received the 29th November, conveys a lively idea of the scene:

"We have sad work here about the Covent Garden Theatre; I was there twice, and the riot and noise exceeded any thing you can imagine. I was more disgusted with the conduct of the performers than displeased at the price; they played their parts without seeming to pay the least attention to the public. Not one syllable could be heard. In one part, where a dance was introduced on the stage, every one in the pit stood on the benches, and danced in the same time. You cannot conceive any thing so ludicrous as it appeared; the players and the audience seemed as if they were mimicking each other, and the cloud of dust raised was so great, that you could hardly see the stage. The Police Officers have been very active in taking up the offenders. The letters O. P. and the words Old Prices, are the words by which the opposition know each other; which are torn down by the managers' friends, when their party is strong enough; in consequence of which many gentlemen went with O. P. embroidered on their waistcoats, pocket-handkerchiefs, &c. conceiving that an indictment for robbery might be laid if they were taken. My friend and I agreed to go with different mottos on watch-ribbons, and he went accordingly with one on which I had printed with gold leaf *Old Prices*; it answered the purpose most completely; and I dont think any thing was taken more notice of."

Died....At Lansdowne-house, in Berkley-square, the Most Noble the Marquis of Landsdowne. His disorder was a liver complaint, to which he had for many years been subject. His lordship was married a few years since to Lady Gifford, but he left no issue. His title and estates devolve in consequence to his only brother, Lord Henry Petty, now Marquis of Lansdowne.

The death of the Marquis is an event his surviving relatives and friends will ever lament. This nobleman was indeed a polished gentleman; his elegant manners were only exceeded by his easy but brilliant conversation, in which the most honourable principles were ever manifested. His learning was extensive; and for decision of character, quickness of discernment, and depth of intellect, he was unrivalled. His country has to regret such endowments were not oftener exerted in her service; but although his attachment to her liberties and interest was ardent, yet a declining state of health rendered his Lordship unequal to the fatigues of an active life, and even for a length of time previous to his decease, prevented his enjoying the society of his nearest friends; Lord Landsdowne was, in short, one of the noblest works of God, a truly honest man.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH.

ULSTER.

Married...Mr. S. Matthews, of Belfast, to the agreeable Miss Grace Greenan, of Hercules-street, Belfast.

Mr. H. M'Larninon, to Miss Mackey, both of Antrim.

Mr. Thomas Black, of Colerain, merchant, to Miss Henry, of Cookstown.

Mr. John Nicholson, merchant, to Miss M'Cone, both of Belfast.

Mr. James Rankin, of Londonderry, saddler, to Miss E. Pinkerton, of St. Johnstown.

David Mortimer, esq. of Lakeview, co. Cavan, to the amiable Miss O'Reilly, eldest daughter of Counsellor O'Reilly, of Eccles-street.

Benj. Sergeant, esq. of Saggard-place, to Miss Lyle, of Lylemount, county Londonderry.